NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Langley Research Center
Hampton, Va. 23681-2199

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(Phone: 757/864-8150) August 12, 2004

RELEASE: 04-050

NASA LANGLEY TEAM RECEIVES SOFTWARE OF THE YEAR AWARD

A team from NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., has won the agency's 2004 Software of the Year Award.

The team, comprised of seven Langley employees, one employee at the Air Force Research Lab and one contractor at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, developed the Tetrahedral Unstructured Software System (TetrUSS), a suite of computational programs used for fluid dynamics and aerodynamics analysis.

Originally developed for NASA internal applications, TetrUSS has evolved into an efficient and versatile computer fluid dynamics (CFD) tool used by engineers and scientists throughout the nation. The software is widely used in other government organizations, the aerospace industry, academia and non-aerospace industries such as automotive, biomedical and civil engineering.

TetrUSS won the Software of the Year Award in 1996 but was honored again this year for TetrUSS 2004, a new version which incorporates developments the team has made over the last eight years.

Jesse Midgett, Langley's Awards Liaison Officer, said TetrUSS is the single most awarded technology in the history of NASA's Space Act Invention Awards Program since it was initiated in 1958.

"The accomplishment of the TetrUSS team is truly a landmark achievement for a NASA technology," Midgett said. "The TetrUSS team's performance exemplifies how employees at Langley never give up in their quest for better and better products."

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TetrUSS has been used to support many NASA projects, notably X-43, Mars Scout and the American Airlines Flight 587 investigation. It is also in use at more than 75 academic institutions and more than 500 government and industry sites for all classes of aerospace and industrial fluid flow applications worth many billions of dollars.

“Lockheed-Martin has relied heavily on the TetrUSS system for aerodynamic analysis of complex configurations,” said Rick Hooker, a TetrUSS user at Lockheed-Martin Corp. “This system has proven very reliable and robust and provides critical capabilities not available in other packages.”

TetrUSS is on a bit of a roll. In June, it received an Apple Design Award, placing ahead of applications developed by Improvision and IBM for Best Mac OSX Scientific Computing Solution.

“I was really surprised we beat out those companies,” said Craig Hunter, one of the TetrUSS developers at Langley. “They put out some really good software.”

NASA’s Software of the Year Award is designed to reward outstanding software developed for the agency. Software eligible for the award must have NASA intellectual property interest, be of commercial grade, and be available to appropriate commercial users or dedicated to a NASA mission.

For more information about the Software of the Year award on the Internet, visit:

http://icb.nasa.gov/nasaswy.html

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